THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government is contemplating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission" in the country to enhance the production of wheat, rice and pulses during XI Five Year Plan. Besides, a proposal for introduction of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) scheme to State plans to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture over and above its existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under consideration of the Government to increase growth in agriculture in the country.

Promotion of Vermi Compost and Bio-fertilizers

†7. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of wastes from urban and rural areas of the country being used for preparing vermi compost and other bio-fertilizers;

(b) whether the wastes from the urban and rural areas of the State of Uttarakhand are also being used for preparing vermi compost and other bio-fertilizers, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government so far to encourage it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Authentic data is not available on percentage of wastes from urban and rural areas of the country being used for preparing vermi compost. Bio-fertilizers are bacterial preparation and no waste is used for their preparation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For encouraging compost production, composting techniques including vermi compost, NADEP compost, BD-compost, EM-compost, CPP/Bokashi, Taral Khad are being promoted under "National Project on Organic Farming", "National Horticulture Mission" & "Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand."

Sale of Spurious Fertilizers, Pesticides and Insecticides

8. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minsiter of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spurious fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides are being sold in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on agriculture produce;

(c) the number of cases that has come to light during last two years; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent production of spurious fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No cases of large scale adulteration of fertilizer, pesticides and insecticide have been reported to the Ministry. By and large good quality of fertilizers & insecticides are being sold in the country. Natural factors like untimely rains, floods,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

droughts, irrigation facilities, availability of good quality of seeds & other inputs impact agriculture production & productivity.

(c) As per available information, the number of samples of fertilizers and insecticides found non standard during last two years are:-

Year	Fertilizer	Insecticides
2005-06	6728	2100
2006-07	4345	1405

(d) Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985 ensures that fertilizer which meet the standards of quality laid down in the Order are produced and sold to the farmers. Similarly, the quality and sale of pesticides and insecticides are regulated under the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968. The State Governments/UTs are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against those found indulged in production & sale of non standard fertilizer under the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985/Essential Commodities Act, 1955/Insecticides Act, 1968. To ensure that the farmers get the standard quality of inputs, States have been advised to regularly check the quality of fertilizers & insecticides.

NATPs recommendations on agricultural research

9. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Technology Project of World Bank has given any recommendations to help Indian agricultural research by making it more responsive to the technology needs at the grassroots; and

(b) if so, how the farming systems in the disadvantaged rain fed regions like Vidarbha where a large number of farmers are resorting to suicides due to poverty level being high especially in districts like Yavatmal would get the intended benefits and relief invisaged in NATP through sustainable use of natural resources land and water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The farming systems in the districts like Yavatmal would get the benefits of technological and other complimentary interventions through sustainable use of natural resources, land and water by soil analysis, introduction of improved/new field/horticultural crops promotion of medicinal plants cultivation, forestry trees, fodder cultivation, use of integrated pest management & use of integrated nutrient management practices and promotion of post-harvest management practices.

Guidelines on NATP

10. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether detailed guidelines have been issued on the recommendations made in the World Bank aided National Agricultural Technology Project, completed in June, 2006 costing US$ 249 Millions;